

**First Kentish record of *Bankesia douglasii* Staint. (Lep.: Psychidae)**

My good friend Lawrence Clemons casually remarked to me that during the first week of March he had often seen several "micros" in the early morning flying in the proximity of a sawn railway sleeper fence near Sittingbourne railway station, Kent.

I persuaded him to try to capture a specimen and on 6th March 1984 one was duly produced which proved to be *Bankesia douglasii*, a species only then previously recorded from Southampton Water many years ago and thought possibly to be extinct. This Kent record is the "dot" on the map in Heath & Emmet, 1985, *The moths and butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland 2*.

I visited the fence on several occasions between 8th and 19th March that year when dozens were flying only in the early morning, even in light drizzle, but could found later in the day at rest on the adjacent fence. It seems likely that the male larvae fix themselves elsewhere, possibly low down amongst leaf litter, as from a sample of cases collected at random off the fence, only females subsequently emerged.

It is sad to report that the fence has since been removed by British Rail and replaced with open chain link, but the colony may still survive elsewhere in the railway yard.— N.F. HEAL, 44 Blenheim Avenue, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NW.

**A second British record of *Peribatodes manuelaria* H.-S. (Lep.: Geometridae)**

On the night of 4th August 1994 a female example of the geometrid moth, *Peribatodes manuelaria* (The Lydd Beauty) was taken by K. Redshaw in a mercury vapour trap running in his garden at New Romney, Kent. The first British specimen was taken close by at Lydd, Kent by Miss P. Carter on 27.viii.1990. (This specimen is illustrated in *Br.J.ent.Nat.Hist.*, 1992. 5: plate III.)

In brief, this species can be distinguished from the two other British members of this genus by a combination of the lack of an obvious pale underside apical mark on the forewing; the shortly pectinate antennae (in the male) and the shape of the postmedian lines on the forewing (intermediate between *P. rhomboidaria* and *P. secundaria*) and on the hindwings which are curved markedly around the discal mark. In the two Kentish specimens, their small size and generally uniform greyish appearance were good initial indicators, although these are apparently not recognised on the continent as criteria that can be applied to all examples of this species. All three species *Peribatodes* are illustrated together in Skou, 1986, *The Geometrid moths of North Europe*.

The 1994 specimen produced a number of fertile ova, and the author forced through several of these to slightly undersized adulthood during November, feeding them mainly on Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*). The remainder are presently being overwintered naturally as small larvae. A

more full account of the occurrence, identification and rearing in captivity of *P. manuelaria* is planned for publication in the *Record* later this year.

– S.P. CLANCY, Dehli Cottage, Dungeness, Romney Marsh, Kent TN29 9NE.

### **A sighting of the Monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus* L. in West Sussex**

On Sunday 11th September 1994, at 1225 I received a call from a friend in Keymer, West Sussex who was sure he had sighted a Monarch butterfly in his garden. Although chances of my seeing this butterfly were minimal, I immediately drove to Keymer with my camera, despite the previously sunny weather turning cooler and cloudier. Fortune does occasionally shine upon the entomologist, and the butterfly was still there, resting on Hemp Agrimony, not feeding as all the flowers had failed.

After a single photograph the insect took flight, but returned a few moments later settling high up in a bush. One more circuit of the garden and a brief rest, and this magnificent butterfly rose high into the sky and flew away over the rooftops.– D. DEY, 26 Manor Avenue, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8NG.

### **The Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus* L.) in Somerset**

After reading Paul Sokoloff's note with regard to a Monarch *Danaus plexippus* in Kent on 25th July 1994 (*Entomologists Record* **106**: 248), I am prompted to report the following.

On the 2nd September 1994, my wife and son saw and successfully photographed a fine specimen feeding on Red Valerian *Centranthus ruber*, in our garden at Berrow, Somerset (VC6). On 21st September B.J. Hill telephoned me to report a Monarch at Lilstock, Somerset (VC5) while he awaited the reappearance of a rare Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polglotta*. This species is of southern origin and perhaps an indicator of the butterflies origin.– BRIAN E. SLADE, 40 Church House Road, Berrow, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 2NQ.

### **A record of *Luperina dumerilii* Dup. (Lep.: Noctuidae) from Cornwall**

I belatedly put on record the capture of a male *Luperina dumerilii* Duponchel (Dumeril's Rustic) from the Lizard Point, Cornwall on 7th September 1983. For the statistically minded it is the second record for Cornwall and chronologically is the 27th of a total 28 published records for the British Isles.

It is a unicolorous form and lacks the pale stigmata and subterminal shading depicted in most illustrations. Because of this it had been misidentified as an aberrant *L. testacea* D.&S. (Flounced Rustic).

My diary records much migrant activity on this occasion and the species listed include *Agrius convolvuli* L. (Convolvulous Hawkmoth), *Mythimna loreyi* Dup. (The Cosmopolitan), *M. vitellina* Hb. (The Delicate) and *Rhodometra sacraria* L. (the Vestal). The expertise of Barry Goater and Martin Honey is gratefully acknowledged.– BERNARD SKINNER, 5 Rawlins Close, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8JS.